

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 109993

45

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-10

SMI-01 NSF-01 OES-03 L-02 USIA-06 PA-01 PRS-01 EUR-12

/057 R

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: TUTANKHAMUN EXHIBIT

REF: (A) CAIRO 4553 (B) STATE 055569

1. DEPT APPRECIATES RECEIVING DETAILS AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH DR. MOKHTAR. ONE DIFFICULTY IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHOW HAS BEEN FACT THAT DR. MOKHTAR PRESENTS SITUATION SOMEWHAT DIFFERENTLY EACH TIME SUBJECT IS DISCUSSED, E.G. WHETHER U.S. OR EGYPT IS PICKING SITES, HOW MANY THERE WILL BE, ETC. FOR THIS REASON SEEMS BEST TO LEAVE THESE DETAILS FOR MEETING BETWEEN HOVING AND MOKHTAR, LEADING TO SIGNING OF AGREEMENTS.

2. MAJOR MUSEUMS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SHOW HAVE BEEN CONSULTED INFORMALLY BY DEPARTMENT, AND THEY SEEM

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PAGE 02 STATE 109993

QUITE WILLING HAVE METROPOLITAN ACT AS MANAGER OF

EXHIBITION. INDEED METROPOLITAN POSSIBLY ONLY ONE
WITH ALL NECESSARY RESOURCES TO DO THE JOB.

3. HOVING STATES THAT HE AND MOKHTAR AGREED IN PRINCIPLE
TO TWO SEPARATE EXHIBITIONS AS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL (B),
AND IN HIS APRIL 10 LETTER TO MOKHTAR, AND THIS
UNDERSTANDING CONFIRMED BY DR. MURSI SAAD EL-DIN IN
CONVERSATION MAY 9 WITH SOLMSEN.

4. DEPT UNDERSTANDS THERE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSIONS OF
PRESIDENT'S PARTICIPATION IN PHILADELPHIA BICENTENNIAL
CELEBRATIONS, BUT THAT NO FINAL PLANS HAVE BEEN
ANNOUNCED. IN ANY EVENT, DISCUSSIONS HAVE INVOLVED
JULY 4, 1976 DATE, WHICH PRESUMABLY TOO EARLY FOR
OPENING OF EXHIBITION. IF THERE ARE TWO SHOWS,
PHILADELPHIA WOULD BE LOGICAL SITE FOR OPENING OF
"FIVE PHAROHS" SHOW. BUT, GIVEN COMPLICATION OF
SITUATION, PROBABLY BEST DEFER ALL SUCH DECISIONS UNTIL
HOVING-MOKHTAR MEETING.

5. HOVING HAS COMMITMENTS WHICH WILL KEEP HIM BUSY
THROUGH JUNE 4. IF HE TRAVELS JUNE 5, MEETINGS COULD
BEGIN JUNE 6. HE WILL BE FREE UNTIL APPROXIMATELY
JUNE 11. WOULD THIS SUIT MOKHTAR? PLEASE ADVISE ASAP.
SOLMSEN PLANS TO PARTICIPATE AND WILL COORDINATE
SCHEDULE WITH HOVING.

6. DEPT IS STUDYING PREVIOUS EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT WITH
BRITISH ON TUTANKHAMUN, AND WILL MAKE DETAILED
COMMENT IN SEPTEL. WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE ASAP ANY
DETAILS ON WHAT DR. MOKHTAR PROPOSES TO INCLUDE IN
GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT WITH U.S. THERE
CERTAINLY ARE ASPECTS OF BRITISH AGREEMENT WHICH
WOULD GIVE US PROBLEMS, E.G. PAYMENT OF NET PROCEEDS
TO UNESCO, AND GUARANTEE OF GOVERNMENT INDEMNITY
(FOR WHICH THERE IS NOT NOW LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY,
ALTHOUGH DEPARTMENT IS HOPEFUL THAT A GENERAL
INDEMNITY BILL MAY BE ENACTED IN TIME FOR THIS
EXHIBITION). A BRIEF AND QUITE GENERAL GOVERNMENTAL
AGREEMENT, LEAVING ALL DETAILS TO SEPARATE AGREEMENT
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PAGE 03 STATE 109993

BETWEEN EGYPTIANS AND METROPOLITAN WOULD BE MUCH
PREFERABLE FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL PROPERTY, CULTURAL EXHIBITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE109993
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PSOLMSEN:MAJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750167-0467
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750560/aaaaccnn.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CAIRO 4553, 75 STATE 055569
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TUTANKHAMUN EXHIBIT
TAGS: SCUL, EG
To: CAIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006